



AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1966

Medical Officer
of Health

A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.
Barrister at Law
(Resigned 15th September 1966)

G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(From 1st November 1966)

Public Health
Inspector

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My remarks in this Report are necessarily brief as I was concerned with the health of the area for only the last two months of the year.

The health of the district remains good and the statistics are satisfactory, as they have been for some years now. The numbers are small so a slight variation makes an apparently large increase when given as cases per 1,000. The fact that over the years the numbers have remained satisfactory gives far greater weight.

I am grateful to you, Mr.Chairman, and the Members of the Committee for your interest and to Mr.Mears who was responsible for much of this Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.R.THORPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1966

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.,
Barrister at Law
(Resigned 15th September 1966)

G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(From 1st November 1966)

Surveyor,
Public Health Inspector
and Housing Manager

J.P.MEARS, MR.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	1,904 Acres.
Population -	
Census for 1961	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year 1966 ..	4,580
Number of inhabited houses	1,573
Rateable Value	170,344
Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.67)	£570

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

As with other districts in the County the area is changing its character and becoming more industrialised. Many workers now live in the district and travel to work in neighbouring towns. With overcrowding in the larger towns more residents can be expected in this district. There are ample facilities for recreation and the country round about is very pleasant.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	43	37	80
Illegitimate	..	..	..	-	3	3
Totals	..	..	..	<u>43</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>83</u>
Crude Birth Rate	..	..	..	18.1 per 1,000 home pop:		
Adjusted Birth Rate.	..	..	..	17.6 " " "		
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.97)						
As compared with -						
Average for last five years	..			21.0 per 1000 home pop:		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		20.0	"	" " "
Rate for England and Wales	..			17.7	"	" " "
<u>Still Births</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	-	-	-
Still Birth Rate	..	..	..	Nil per 1000 live and still births.		
As compared with -						
Average for last five years	..			13.6 per 1000 live and still births		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		11.3	"	" " "
Rate for England and Wales	..			15.4	"	" " "
<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	..	..		31	26	57
Transferred into District.	..			4	10	14
Transferred from District.	..			-	1	1
Totals	..	..	..	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>70</u>
Crude Death Rate	..	..	..	15.3 per 1000 home pop:		
Adjusted Death Rate.	..	..	..	11.3 " " "		
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.74)						
As compared with -						
Average for last five years	..			13.0 per 1000 home pop:		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		10.1	"	" " "
Rate for England and Wales	..			11.7	"	" " "
<u>Deaths of Infants under One year.</u>				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate	..			Nil per 1000 related live births		
As compared with -						
Average of last five years	..			9.2 per 1000 related live		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		15.0	"	" " births.
Rate for England and Wales	..			19.0	"	" " "
<u>Deaths Connected with Childbirth</u>						
Maternal Mortality	..			Nil per 1000 live and still births.		
As compared with -						
Average of last five years	..			Nil per 1000 total (live and still)		
Rate for Bedfordshire	..	..		.34	"	" " births.
Rate for England and Wales	..			.26	"	" " "

The statistics have remained satisfactory for several years and there are no unusual events to report. The actual numbers are small and it is difficult to make any conclusions from them.



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CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1966

Cause of Death	Total All Ages		Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		Age in Years														
	M	F	M	F	M	F	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over						
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F					
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-																			
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2									2										
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	2								1					2	1					
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1													1						
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	6													2	2					
18 Coronary disease, angina	12	8								1					2	1					
19 Hypertension with heart disease	2	1																			
20 Other heart disease	-	7												1		2					
21 Other circulatory disease	-	1														1					
23 Pneumonia	2	5														2					
24 Bronchitis	2	-														5					
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	-														2					
31 Congenital malformations	-	1											1								
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	1														1					
33 Motor vehicle accidents	1	-													1						
Total all causes	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	5	3	10	8	17	21

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

The Nurses employed are -

Mrs.P.R.Aspinal,
46 Holland Road, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 2045
Mrs.P.D.A.Cook, (General Nursing only)
34 Greenways, Flitwick. Telephone - Flitwick 684
Mr.K.F.Cripps,
189 Oliver Street, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 3248
Mrs.L.E.Stockbridge,
11 Arthur Street, Ampthill. Telephone - Ampthill 2261

(b) Health Visiting Service

Miss E.V.Maberly, 24 Lyme Road, Ampthill.

(c) Home Help Service

Organiser - Mrs.V.M.Berckelaer, Telephone - Bedford 52207
Clinic, Union Street, Bedford.

(d) Child Welfare Centre

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Friday afternoons.

(e) Immunisation Session

1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill. Friday mornings - four weekly.

6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

The water supply of the District is the responsibility of the Bedfordshire Water Board.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF
SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

(All results in parts per million unless otherwise stated)

<u>Treated water leaving Waterworks</u>					<u>Clophill</u>
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Colour (Hazen)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction (pH)	..	..	..	..	8.0
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per cc at 20°C)	..	..	..	..	430
Ammonia-free and saline (as N)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Ammonia-albuminoid (as N)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Nitrogen in nitrites	..	..	..	..	Nil
Nitrogen in nitrates	..	..	..	..	Trace
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	..	..	..	28
Carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	124
Non-Carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	100
Total Hardness	..	..	..	..	224
Calcium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	176
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	48
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 26.7°C	..	..	..	..	Nil
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	0.1
Lead, Zinc, Copper	..	..	..	..	None found
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	14
Potassium as K	..	..	..	..	3
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	..	None found
Fluoride as F	..	..	..	..	0.30
Silica (molybdate reactive)	..	..	..	..	22

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

Better reports on samples of effluent were received due mainly to the improved operation of the Plant, but the Works will have to be enlarged to cater for the increase in population which will arise on completion of the proposed residential development.

During the year sewerage contracts were completed to serve properties in The Avenue and Hazelwood Lane not already connected to a public sewer.

(c) Rivers and Streams.

No serious pollution took place during the year within the district.

(d) Cesspools, Pail Closets.

The number of properties connected to cesspools was greatly reduced on the completion of the two Sewerage contracts in The Avenue and Hazelwood Lane. Only 35 domestic properties are now served by Cesspool or Septic Tank installations, and two by pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse continues satisfactorily, but it has not been possible to maintain a regular weekly collection due to sickness amongst staff and the inability to attract and maintain a suitable labour force.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage.

It is still not possible to salvage wastepaper, due to labour difficulties and the economic state of the market does not make this a worthwhile proposition for this Authority.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area.

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	..	..	7
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	-
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	..	..	8
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	..	..	11
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation.	..	..	2
Premises with defective floors	..	..	1
Dirty premises	..	..	-
Dangerous structure	..	..	-
Accumulations of offensive matter	..	..	-
Unsound meat and other foods	..	..	6
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease	..	..	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	..	..	71
Other dilapidations	..	..	-
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	-
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	31
Number of defective premises	..	..	23

(h) Shops and Offices.

No statutory action was taken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites, etc.

A number of Caravans were licensed on sites used in connection with Civil Engineering, Building and Agricultural works. No other caravans, or moveable dwellings were licensed and no sites for moveable dwellings or camping are situated within the district.

(j) Smoke Abatement.

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation. (Not rodent control) No treatments were necessary.

7. HOUSING.

During the early part of the year the Contract for the erection of 55 dwellings and garages at Willow Way commenced, and towards the end of the year a number of the houses were nearing completion.

Sixty-three private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Oliver Street, Warren Farm and Ampthill House Estates.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws and Building Regulations -

- 7 Dwellings and Garages
- 11 Alterations to Business Premises
- 31 Alterations to Domestic Premises
- 14 Private Garages
- 7 Conservatories
- 2 Garages for Commercial Vehicles
- 1 Extension to Laundry (The Cedars)
- 1 Block of 5 Shops, Flats and 8 Garages.

Town and Country Planning.

62 Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 40 were approved, 10 refused, 7 withdrawn, 4 deferred and one was invalid.

No Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received.

8. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council has continued to employ the retired Operator on a part-time basis, which has proved most satisfactory.

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors	9	17
2. Bakers and Confectioners	8	16
3. Grocers	4	11
4. Fishmongers	1	3
5. General Stores	9	21
6. Butchers	5	27
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	3
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	3	10

(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	14
2. Industrial Canteens	-	-
3. School Canteens	2	6
4. Hotels	1	4
5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops	1	5
7. Others	-	-

(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	27
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	27
3. Bakehouses	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

12 lbs. Tinned Foods
6 lbs. Pork
98 lbs. Dried Peas
14 lbs. Bloaters
7 lbs. Kipperd Fillets
122 lbs. Beef Dripping

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the Butchers Shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five Butchers Shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations.

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which are licensed to sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations.

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the Regulations were being complied with.

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital.
Measles	1	1	-	2	-

No serious cases of infectious disease were reported. It is gratifying that diphtheria and poliomyelitis are absent from the notification.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Male	Female	Male	Female
3	2	-	2

11. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There is a weekly visit of a Mobile Unit for chest x-rays on the request of a general practitioner. This Unit is on The Sands every Thursday from 12 noon to 12.15 p.m.

12. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 gives the Local Authority power to compulsorily remove to hospital or other suitable premises, persons suffering from grave chronic disease, and/or, who being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, or living in insanitary conditions, being unable to devote themselves or are not receiving from others proper care and attention.

This Section was not used during the year.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria is the responsibility of the County Council and is carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

Vaccination against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons - Public Health Act 1936, Section 85.

No treatments were given under this Section during the year.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	4	11		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	18	37		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding outworkers premises.	16	34		
Total	38	82		

* Institutions, Section 124, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp:	Number of cases in w which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1) Overcrowding (s.2) Unreasonable temperature(s.3) Inadequate ventilation (s.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6) Sanitary Conveniences (s.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to utwork)	2	2			
Total	2	2			

PART VIII OF THE ACT -- OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

Nature of Work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of cut workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
